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**Hamblin et al.**(10) **Pub. No.: US 2013/0124797 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: May 16, 2013**(54) **VIRTUAL DISKS CONSTRUCTED FROM  
UNUSED DISTRIBUTED STORAGE**(52) **U.S. Cl.**

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(75) Inventors: **Jeffrey B. Hamblin**, Issaquah, WA (US);  
**Saurabh Gupta**, Bellevue, WA (US);  
**Justin Neddo**, Kenmore, WA (US);  
**Joseph Sherman**, Redmond, WA (US)

(57)

**ABSTRACT**

A virtual disk is comprised of segments of unused capacity of physical computer-readable storage media co-located with computing devices that are communicationally coupled to one another through network communications. The computing devices execute one or more of a client process, a storage process and a controller process. The controller processes manage the metadata of the virtual disk, including a virtual disk topology that defines the relationships between certain ones of the physical computer-readable storage media and a particular virtual disk. The client process provide data for storage to certain ones of the computing devices executing the storage processes, as defined by a virtual disk topology, and also read data from storage from those computing devices. The client process additionally expose the virtual disk in the same manner as any other computer-readable medium.

(73) Assignee: **MICROSOFT CORPORATION**,  
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